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### (54) PREPARATION OF ACYLOXYACETIC ACID

#### (57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To prepare acyloxyacetic acid by the reaction of HCHO, CO and an aliphatic carboxylic acid using a heteropolymolybdic acid or a heteropolytungstic acid as an inexpensive, less corrosive and long-life catalyst.

CONSTITUTION: Acyloxyacetic acid is prepared by the reaction of HCHO, CO and an aliphatic acid (e.g. lower aliphatic acids) using a heteropolymolybdic acid (e.g. H<sub>4</sub>Mo<sub>12</sub>TiO<sub>40</sub>, H<sub>3</sub>Mo<sub>12</sub>PO<sub>40</sub> etc.) or heteropoly-tungstic acid (e.g. H<sub>3</sub>W<sub>12</sub>PO<sub>40</sub>, H<sub>4</sub>W<sub>12</sub>SiO<sub>40</sub> etc.).

Formaldehyde can be used as gas phase, as an oligomer or as an aqueous solution. The above catalyst can be used in homogeneous liquid phase, suspension phase or fixed bed.

USE: Intermediate of glycolic acids, ethylene glycol monoesters etc.

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